1421

Gray Mc^n S.

39 E. 28 St.

New York, Jan 4/78

Jany 6. 1878

" 16 "

Wishes to sell a picture supposed to be by Titian.

CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Return, if not called for in 5 days.

glad to confer with you about it— presuming upon the interest you have manifested in the work already in possession of the gallery.

With respect and esteem
I am very truly yours
S. Gray
39 East 28th St.

1421

New York Jan 14th 1878.

Rec'd Jan 16
Ans'd "

W. MacLeod

Dear Sir

Your letter of third is received and I am very glad if it can do you any service, the small "history" that I am able to give of a noble work.

I would now wish to consult you upon another work owned by my husband as I think its destination should be a gallery such as the Corcoran Gallery seems to aim at being, an education for the people.

Some years ago my husband found in an obscure

quarter a picture which he was greatly pleased with and after a time succeeded in its purchase. It has for more than twenty years been the greatest source of pleasure and study, and after several visits to Europe he decided the picture to be ~~the original~~ either a repetition by Titian himself or by one of his favorite pupils, × The manner of painting, the ground upon which it is done and every thing about it my husband believed marked it a famous work by the hand of a master and then the picture stronger than any thing that can be said of it, speaks for itself, it is a matchless piece of work

× of the work known as "the younger Venus of the Tribune"

During our last visit abroad the original picture in the Tribune at Florence was taken down in order that Mr Gray might be allowed a closer view of its great merit A corner of the picture had crumbled off leaving the canvas and its preparation exposed to the action and there were the same colors and there were the canvas and beginning as it is the "Venus" which we have now in our house, and my husband repeatedly told me there was nothing in art that had given him so much pleasure or from which he had learned so much as this very picture.

We cannot afford to give it away and desire to sell it. It should be in some public place where artists can have access to it as a means of culture. Should you think it worth mentioning to Mr Corcoran I shall be very

1422

Hamilton

H. H.

Aug 12. 1878.

Estimate for sewerage & plumbing in cellar.

✓

CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Return, if not called for in 5 days.

1422

Office and Salesrooms of

H. W. HAMILTON,

DEALER IN

Gas Fixtures, Mantels, Heaters, Plumbers' & Gas-Fitters' Supplies.

TIN, COPPER, SHEET-IRON, FURNACE, AND RANGE WORK.

PLUMBING, STEAM AND GAS FITTING A SPECIALTY.

Y. M. C. A. Building, Cor. Ninth and D Sts., Washington, D. C.

Washington Aug 12/78

Dr Jas C. Hall

Dear Sir!

As requested I have caused a thorough examination to be made of the Sewerage and plumbing in Corcoran Art Building and report as follows:

We find the Sewerage very defective, there being only an ordinary 6 inch brick drain loosely put together emptying into a square brick basins, with no traps to prevent sewer gases escaping and filling the whole building. The conducting pipes from the roof have no connection with the sewer but empty into the areas to be carried off in the small brick drain which is not large enough

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for surface drainage alone to say nothing of roof water which comes down in great quantities filling the main sewer at every heavy rain ~~and~~ causing the cellar to be flooded, and the brick walls absorbing the dampness which remains creating a mouldy, damp and poisonous odor to ascend the entire building - To remedy all this I would recommend the introduction of 8 inch pipes to the main sewer (Terra Cotta pipes) and through the whole cellar with the "Downey Improved Valve & Trap" between the main sewer and the building line, I would also recommend 6 inch Terra Cotta pipes to be run from the rear areas to 17th St. Sewer connecting the down Spouts with the same, and the east areas the same,

1422

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By carrying out this plan with the Downey System of ventilation and ~~with~~ a change of water closets, which I would by all means advise, for the improved Sanitary Closets. (Demorest or Jennings) I would guarantee no more flooding of cellar with water or foul gases, The probable cost of the whole work as suggested including the change of closets would not be over $1,000.- and possibly much less. I cannot fairly estimate beforehand the work that may be necessary to perfect the whole work in the best manner but I propose if allowed to do the work to do it right and at a reasonable price.

Yours Respectfully
H. W. Hamilton

Lentze

1423.

Key to picture of Milton playing before Cromwell.

CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Return, if not called for in 5 days.

1423

Key to the Chief Personages in Landseer's
Picture of Milton playing before Cromwell

Description of Milton's House

4 1 Cromwell
5 2 Mrs. Cromwell
3 3 Mrs. Ireton (their daughter)
2 4 Genl. Ireton (Cromwell's son in law & aide)
1 5 Selden
6 Thurlow
7 Algernon Sydney
8 Milton

1424.

Prosdocimo
Giovanni.
Brisbane, Australia.
June 10. 1878.

Wishes a position
to restore pictures &c.
(with translation)

COLOGNE GALLERY OF ART,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Return, if not called for in 5 days.

1424

Translation

To the most honorable President of the Academy of Art.

Pardon me for writing to you in the Italian Language, as I am not able to write grammatically in English.

For a long time French painters have experimented to discover the art of cleaning and restoring old oil-paintings, without injuring the color, shadows & middle-tints — in a word, to make a picture of the year 1500 or 1600 whose character & meaning are hidden under dirt & darkness, to appear as if just painted. Thus, a Gandrè, a Titian or a Paul Veronese, or a Giambellini — all of them pictures more prized for their names, than appearance, now look as if fresh from the artists hand. As an instance of how great treasures in painting, are thus discovered, a Venus by Titian in the Academy of Florence, valued at 50.000 francs, ~~has~~ after being cleaned by an eminent painter has been valued at 400.000 francs. By this discovery, the ~~painting~~ picture appeared just painted, though the Yellows & blues had undergone a change, more or less considerable, which the eye of an artist would quickly detect.

After many years of trial I have discovered a method, by which I can restore the oldest painting from ~~the~~ dirt & darkness, leaving it in the state in which it was first painted, without in the least injuring the Yellows and blues, and thus after a proper time, being carefully varnished, it will appear absolutely new. In this way hundreds of paintings in Academies, of which the subjects can hardly be distinguished, may be brought to a new life.

If my means allowed it, I would take my method to some of the great cities of Europe, but unfortunately Australia not affording an artist more means of living, than can be got from being a lithographic draughtsman, I have turned to you, asking you to apply to your Government, that I may obtain the means of travel hence, & prove all I have said, or sell my discovery, or place myself under your orders to work for your Academy.

In this way, I could repay my travelling expenses, and gain a position, which without your aid and protection, I could never reach.

In the fervent hope that you will not abandon me, I expect such aid through the resident Consul here

With particular esteem, I have the honor to declare myself Your servant

Giovanni Prosdocimi
Artist in paintings

Brisbane, Australia
June 10. 1878

Permit me to enclose my photograph.

P.S. In case neither your Government nor Academy think fit to accept my proposition, I beg you to let me know, or else repeat it to some one who might be willing to join me. In such case, it would be well to have my passage secured, through the American Consul here.

Pardon, I beg of You, this liberty

Your servant. G. Prosdocimi

1424

Onorevolissimo Sig.r Presidente.

Perdonate se mi permetto scrivervi in lingua italiana stantechè non conosco bene grammaticalmente l'inglese.

Tempo addietro pittori francesi fecero grandi esperimenti per ritrovare la maniera di pulire i quadri ad olio vecchi, senza produrre al dipinto nè cambiamenti nel colorito, nè perdite di velature o mezze tinte o spelature; in una parola un quadro del 1500 o 1600 pel tempo ridotto in uno stato di appena distinguersi che sia, ridurlo come appariva appena dipinto — così un Rembrandt, un Tiziano, un Paolo o Giambellini ecc.ª, quadri tutti che sono apprezzatissimi pel nome e non per quello che in oggi appariscono vengono a comparire come all'epoca stessa che vennero dipinti — Ragione per cui grandi tesori, che in oggi non sono che ben poco vengono scoperti — prova ne sia una Venere dell'Accademia di Firenze (Tiziano) apprezzata 50000 franchi, dopo subita una pulitura eseguita mediante un ritrovato di un celebre pittore, che venne dieci anni or sono constatato buono e primo in Europa, ma non assolutamente il vero ed unico, fu stimata 400,000 franchi. Con tale ritrovato il quadro appariva come appena dipinto, ma i gialli ed in specialità i blù o celesti subivano alterazioni più o meno considerabili.

Studiai anni facendo le

cento prove ma sempre riusciva che la
parte Olio ossia Dipinto rimaneva più o meno
offesa e quindi il quadro appariva bello in
fatti, ma l'occhio artistico vi ritrovava la
mancanza di qualche mezza tinta o alterazioni
ecc. quindi era ottenere quanto è di già ottenuto.

Dopo due anni di prove con metodi diversi
dai primi ho splendidamente ritrovato quanto
desideravo, cioè che dato un quadro coperto
dal tempo pur quanto si voglia da quella
caligine o tinta, io la rimetto nello stato
quale il pittore lo ha Dipinto, non alterrandosi
minimamente nè i gialli nè i celesti. ne
portando danno per l'avenire al dipinto,
in maniera che un quadro pulito che sia
e accomodato in quelle due piccolissime cose
che abbisognasse, e quindi data una o due
passate di vernice, apparisca nuovo assolu-
tamente. -

Con ciò centinaja di quadri che
in molte accademie si trovano in uno
stato da appena Distinguersi che rappresen-
tano, verrebbero a nuova vita.

Se le mie finanze me lo permettes-
sero certamente mi sarei recato in qualche grande
capitale d'Europa, ma fatalmente l'Australia

non dà all'artista nemmeno da che
vivere provvisoria che da pittore fui costretto di
pormi a fare il Disegnatore litografico. quindi
ho pensato di rivolgermi a voi pregandovi
di fare qualche pratica presso il Vostro Governo
acciocchè potessi ottenere il solo viglietto di
viaggio per recarmi costà e dar saggio
di quanto dissi per poi o vendere il mio
ritrovato, o pormi a disposizione di V. S.
e lavorare per codesta Accademia —
In tale maniera posso in breve soddisfare
il mio debito pel viaggio e formarmi
una posizione, posizione che devo alla
protezione vostra, e quindi rimanendo qui,
non potrei giammai ottenere —

Colla più fervida speranza che
voi non mi abbandonerete attendo
col mezzo del Console qui residente tale
grazia — Con particolare stima
ho l'onore di protestarmi
Vostro Servo

Giovanni Prosdocimi
Artista pittore

Brisbane (Australia) li 10
Giugno 1878 —

Mi permetto di
spedirvi una mia
fotografia

P. S.

Vi prego che qualora nè
il vostro Governo nè l'Accade-
mia credesse opportuno di
accogliere questa mia propo-
sta di indirizzarmi, oppure
di dare questa mia a
qualche persona, la quale
trovasse opportuno di unirsi
a me — in ogni caso
avrei sempre bisogno
che il viaggio mi fosse
assicurato col mezzo Del
Console Americano d'qui.

Perdonate vi prego
Della libertà.

Vostro Servo
Jr Saunders

1425

Pynchon

Thos R.

Trinity College

Hartford.

Oct 4/78.
23/78.

Oct. 2/78.

Asks information about the purchase of casts.

CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Return, if not called for in 5 days.

Oct 4/78.

Rep'd Oct 23/78

Trinity College
Hartford.
October 2d 1878.

Mr McLeod.

Curator of Corcoran Gallery.

We are desirous of making a collection of typical casts in plaster for the use of this College, and I have been led to think that the experience you have acquired in purchasing for the Corcoran Gallery, would be the best guide for us. I should be extremely glad if you would print out & state what course you had best to take in making purchases. What

and Wms. & Busts of Adams &
Jaccom. Bus Apollo &c. also
Busts of authors &c. I do think
a list in print of the cards
in the Governors gallery. that
you can spare me.

With respect
I am very truly
Yours.
Thos. R. Pynchon.
President.

1426

Baird S. F.

Oct 12. 19. 1878.

Regrets inability to attend meeting of Board

CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Return, if not called for in 5 days.

1426

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct 12 1878.

Dear Sir

I have to express my regret that absence from Washington will prevent my attending the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Corcoran Art Gallery to be held Monday the 14th.

Respectfully

Spencer F Baird

F. J. Barbarin, Esq.

Corcoran Gallery of Art.

Washington

1426

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION,
~~WASHINGTON, D. C.~~ New York, Oct. 19, 1878.

Dear Sir:

I greatly regret that my continued absence from Washington prevents my attendance at the adjourned meeting to be held at the Corcoran Gallery of Art this day.

Respectfully yours

Spencer F. Baird

F. S. Barbarin, Esq.,
Corcoran Gallery of Art,
Washington
D.C.

1427

Kolb &.

Washington Oct 14/78

Asking approval for License to keep a Hotel 809 "E" st.

✓

CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Return, if not called for in 5 days.

Washington Oct. 14/78

To the Honorable Board of
Corcoran Art. Gallery.

Gentlemen.

I am the proprietor of the hotel situated on the corner of 8th & E sts. The property belongs to the Hon. C. M. Ingersoll of New Haven Ct. of whom I have rented the premises for the last 10 years. I have been employed in the house for the past 22. years.

Having understood that you are in possession of the property No 809. E. st. which was owned by my friend Dr. Culver: my object in addressing you this note is for the purpose of getting your signatures to my petition for a renewal of my license. The Doctor and others of the neighborhood have always cheerfully signed for me, knowing as they well do that I have always kept an orderly house, and never violated the law. Will you please be good enough to aid me in securing my license for the following year. by signing my petition, as the licence must be taken out yearly.

Very respectfully

E. Kolb

1428

Steel

Miss M. M.

Pulaski.

Oswego Co. N.Y.

Oct 9/78

Oct 16/78.

Wishes to copy the Vestal.

CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Return, if not called for in 5 days.

1428

Oct 16/78

Pulaski Oswego Co. N.Y.
Oct. 9th 1878

Mr. McLeod -

Dear Sir -

I would like to put in an application for the privilege of copying the "Vestal Tuscia" - Will try to commence work by the middle of December.

Will you be kind enough to inform Professor Kenzie whether I can have that privilege, or otherwise -

I'll try not to spill "cobalt and oil" on the floor again, altho' I've every reason to believe you to have committed the "Book of Job" entirely, long since -

I am very anxious to try the picture I spoke of -

Remain,
Respectfully,
Nina M. Skid -

To Mr. McLeod -

Kindness of Prof. Kenzie -

For Mr. McLeod.
Curator of Corcoran Gallery of Art.
E. V.

1429

Barlow

D. N.

Oct 16. 1878.

Oct 16/78.

Order for Mr Andrews
picture of Mrs
Washington.

CORCORAN GALLERY OF ART.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Return, if not called for in 5 days.

Oct 16/78

1429

Washington D.C. Oct 16/78.

Mr Wm McLeod.

Sir

Please deliver to bearer. the portrait of Mrs Washington - to be hung at the Presidents House.

order recd from Mr Andrews.

Respectfully

A.N. Barlow

per Dyer

1430

Dodge W. C.

Oct 14/78.

Oct 16/78
22.

Offers Breech Loading Guns for sale.

✓

COLCORAN GALLERY OF ART,
WASHINGTON, D. C.

Return, if not called for in 5 days.

1430

WILLIAM C. DODGE. PHILIP T. DODGE.

DODGE & SON,

Attorneys and Solicitors of American and Foreign Patents.

CORNER OF NINTH AND G STREETS.

Oct 16/78
Oct 22/78

Washington, D. C., Oct 14, 1878

Managers Corcoran Art Gallery

Gentlemen-

A party in N.Y. City was employed by the Spanish Govt to collect for it a complete set of all the Breech Loading guns made in this country, and in doing it he succeeded by much effort in obtaining duplicates. He had them all nickel plated at a cost of $3. each, and he received for the set sold the Spanish Govt $500. He writes me he will sell the other set for $7. each. there being 40 of them, making $280.

They include every breech loading gun ever made in this Country, and not even the U.S. Govt has such a com-

plete collection. I thought to get the Pat Office to purchase them for exhibition, but the Comr has no authority for so doing. I am very anxious that the collection shall be secured for exhibition at the National Capital, and it has occurred to me that as you have some ancient armor &c. in the gallery, it might be an object to secure these & place them there. If I felt able, I would buy them & donate them to the Gallery or other institution here, but am not.

If you will buy them, I will see to getting them delivered & pay the cost myself. As I am going to N.Y. tomorrow night I would be glad to hear from you before going, if possible, but if not, then at any time. It is a rare and unique collection, and remarkably cheap.

Yours Truly

W. E. Dodge

84/Guns